

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

FRANCHISE GROUP, INC., *et al.*,¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-12480 (LSS)

(Jointly Administered)

Hearing Date: April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (ET)
Objections Due: April 1, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. (ET)

**NOTICE OF FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES OF PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP,
AS COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS
FOR THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 11, 2025, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, counsel for the official committee of unsecured creditors (the “Committee”), filed its *First Interim Application for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, as Counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for the Period From November 21, 2024 through January 31, 2025* (the “Application”), seeking compensation for the reasonable

¹ The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM, LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy’s Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy’s Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260); Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123); Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies “Plus”, LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors’ headquarters is located at 109 Innovation Court, Suite J, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

and necessary services rendered to the Committee in the amount of \$2,743,908.25 and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses in the amount of \$38,788.22.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any response or objection to the Application, if any, must be made in writing and filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, 824 North Market Street, 3rd Floor, Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (the “Court”) on or before **April 1, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

The Application is submitted pursuant to the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Estate Professionals* [Docket No. 353] (the “Administrative Order”) and the *Order Appointing Fee Examiner and Establishing Procedures for Consideration of Requested Fee Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses* [Docket No. 747] (the “Fee Examiner Order”).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at the same time, you must also serve a copy of the response or objection upon the following parties (the “Fee Notice Parties”): (i) counsel to the Debtors, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, 601 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attn: Joshua A. Sussberg, P.C. (jsussberg@kirkland.com), Nicole L. Greenblatt, P.C. (nicole.greenblatt@kirkland.com), Mark McKane, P.C. (mark.mckane@kirkland.com), and Derek I. Hunter (derek.hunter@kirkland.com), Maddison Levine (maddison.levine@kirkland.com), and Brian J. Nakhaimousa (brian.nakhaimousa@kirkland.com), and (b) Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Edmon L. Morton, Esq. (emorton@ycst.com), Matthew B. Lunn, Esq. (mlunn@ycst.com), and Allison S. Mielke, Esq. (amielke@ycst.com); (ii) counsel to the Committee, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, (a) 919 North Market Street, 17th Floor, P.O. Box 8705, Wilmington, DE 19899, Attn: Bradford J. Sandler, Esq. (bsandler@pszjlaw.com) and Colin R. Robinson, Esq.

(crobinson@pszjlaw.com), and (b) 780 Third Avenue, 34th Floor, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Robert J. Feinstein, Esq. (rfeinstein@pszjlaw.com), Shirley S. Cho, Esq. (scho@pszjlaw.com), and Theodore S. Heckel, Esq. (theckel@pszjlaw.com); (iii) the U.S. Trustee, J. Caleb Boggs Building, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Timothy J. Fox, Esq. (timothy.fox@usdoj.gov); (iv) counsel to the DIP Lenders and Ad Hoc Group of First Lien Lenders, (a) Paul Hastings LLP, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, Attn: Jayme Goldstein, Esq. (jaymegoldstein@paulhastings.com), Jeremy Evans, Esq. (jeremyevans@paulhastings.com), and Isaac Sasson, Esq. (isaacsasson@paulhastings.com), and (b) Landis Rath & Cobb LLP, 919 N. Market Street Suite 1800, Wilmington, DE 19317, Attn: Adam G. Landis, Esq. (landis@lrclaw.com) and Matthew McGuire, Esq. (mcguire@lrclaw.com); (v) counsel to the DIP Agent, (a) Seward & Kissel LLP, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004, Attn: Gregg Bateman, Esq. (bateman@sewkis.com), Sagar Patel, Esq. (patel@sewkis.com), and Michael Danenberg, Esq. (danenberg@sewkis.com); (vi) the fee examiner appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases, Don F. Oliver, Direct Fee Review LLC, 24A Trolley Square, #1225, Wilmington, Delaware, 19806, with an electronic copy sent to dfr.dfo@gmail.com and dfr.wjd@gmail.com; (vii) counsel to the ABL Lenders, Latham & Watkins LLP, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, Attn: Jennifer Ezring, Esq. (Jennifer.Ezring@lw.com), James Ktsanes, Esq. (James.Ktsanes@lw.com) and Andrew Sorkin, Esq. (andrew.sorkin@lw.com); (viii) counsel to the Second Lien Term Loan Lenders, White & Case LLP, 200 S Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33131, Attn: Thomas Lauria, Esq. (tlauria@whitecase.com), and 111 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 5100, Chicago, IL 60606, Attn: Bojan Guzina, Esq. (bojan.guzina@whitecase.com); and (ix) counsel to the HoldCo Lenders at the addresses set forth in (vii) above.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the terms and conditions of the Administrative Order shall not be modified by the Fee Examiner Order, except that not later than three (3) business days after the filing of an Application, an Estate Retained Professional² shall send to the Fee Examiner via electronic mail such Application and any time entries and the expense detail filed therewith in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format and searchable electronic format (in LEDES, or Excel, as specified by the Fee Examiner), as applicable Fee Detail. If any Estate Retained Professional cannot reasonably convert its Fee Detail to the electronic formats described above, the Fee Examiner and the Estate Retained Professionals shall cooperate in good faith to agree on an appropriate electronic format.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT IF NO OBJECTIONS ARE FILED AND SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE PROCEDURES, THEN 80% OF FEES AND 100% OF EXPENSES REQUESTED IN THE APPLICATION MAY BE PAID PURSUANT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WITHOUT FURTHER HEARING OR ORDER OF THE COURT.

IF A TIMELY OBJECTION IS FILED AND SERVED, A HEARING ON THE APPLICATION WILL BE HELD AT A DATE AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Application have the meaning given to such terms in the Fee Examiner Order.

Dated: March 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP

/s/ Colin R. Robinson

Bradford J. Sandler (DE Bar No. 4142)
Colin R. Robinson (DE Bar No. 5524)
919 North Market Street, 17th Floor
P.O. Box 8705
Wilmington, DE 19899-8705 (Courier 19801)
Telephone: (302) 652-4100
Facsimile: (302) 652-4400
Email: bsandler@pszjlaw.com
crobinson@pszjlaw.com

-and-

Robert J. Feinstein (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Alan J. Kornfeld (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Theodore S. Heckel (admitted *pro hac vice*)
780 Third Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 561-7700
Facsimile: (212) 561-7777
Email: rfeinstein@pszjlaw.com
akornfeld@pszjlaw.com
theckel@pszjlaw.com

*Counsel to the Official Committee
of Unsecured Creditors*